

4. That it possesses, besides, great inducements to men of capital to employ their money productively here; the timber forests, the tin, iron, and coal mines, besides other spontaneous productions of nature, being inexhaustible riches of value.

5. That mercantile speculations cannot be remunerating at present, there being scarcely any demand for foreign produce.

6. That the situation of the country is such, as to point it out as the commercial high road in the north between China; and in the south, between Siam and British India.

NOTE.—The MS. from which this valuable report was printed abounds with copyist's errors, on which it has been sometimes impossible to venture even a conjectural correction.



Memoir on the Climate, Soil, Produce, and Husbandry of Afghanistan and the neighbouring Countries.—By Lieut. IRWIN.¹

PART IV. (*Continued.*)

Toree.

209. The climate is here milder. The chief products are rice and mash. The lands are irrigated, the houses flat-roofed; timber, fuel, and fodder are easily had. The chief live stock is goats, and next, cows and buffaloes. The carriage is by mules, and the natives carry rice and mash to Cabul from their own valley, as also salt from the eastward. The cultivation is considerable, and the villages Zeran and Koorman are long ones.

Upper Bungush.

210. This country seems to correspond in most circumstances to that of Toree. The chief town is Honga, which has 400 houses. The country is strong, and is under its own chief, whom the king seldom displaces. It yields good honey, and is well wooded and watered. Rice is exported to Cabul, generally by the road of Ghorbund. The vallies are well inhabited. But little use is made of tents.

¹ Continued from p. 65, vol. ix.

Khost, &c.

211. Khost and some neighbouring vallies are well watered, and the chief product is rice. The mountains which confine them, afford the natives plenty of timber, fuel, and pasturage. Cows, buffaloes, and goats are the chief stock. Little information is to be gained concerning this part of the Cabul dominions. It may be observed of the eastern parts of that monarchy, that the middle portion of it although not remarkably unfruitful, contributes very little either in men or money to the public strength. Tamerlane made his march to India from Toorkistan through Ghuznee, and thence by the road called Hazar-durnkht, which penetrates the Jadran range, he reached the low country, which is watered by the Koorm, and its numerous branches. In modern times, Cabul is a place of more note than Ghuznee, and the northern road to India through Cabul and Peshawur is the frequented one; in every point of view it is preferable to the middle one. The great southern road from Persia and Khoorasan leads through Candahar, either to Deraghzee Khan or to Shikarpoor, and it is also preferable to the middle one in most points of view. The vallies of Khost, &c. are well cultivated, and their lands irrigated. In former times a greater number of Ghiljies resorted to this quarter for pasturage in the winter than now.

Jadrans, &c.

212. The Jadrans and Mookbuls live in a rude state, in very small villages, and their chief subsistence is from their flocks of goats; after which, we may reckon their fields, which yield them wheat, rice, and some other things, and are in general irrigated. They receive some provisions from the Jajeess and Torees, after whom the vallies of Jajee and Toree are named, and merchants from Cabul carry cloths, &c. into their country, bringing back ghee of goats' milk, and some goats. The country is very strong, and never pays revenue, nay, in the present low state of the royal authority, certain petty chiefs of the Jadrans have compelled their neighbours on the skirts of the table land to pay them revenue instead of the king. They use partly houses and partly black tents, which they make for themselves of goat hair.

Foormul.

213. This is a small district, but has been mentioned in history, and has found a place in maps already existing. It is situated near the junction of the Jadran range with the range of $32\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$. It is drained to the eastward into the Koorm, whereas the country called Zoormul, which lies west or north-west of it, composes part of the table land of Ghuznee, and is drained south or west. The inhabitants of Foormul speak Persian, and reckon themselves 4000 families. The chief town or village is called Orgun, and may have 1000 families; there is no other village of any importance. The people subsist by tillage, and also carry on a considerable trade, conveying salt and iron from the eastward to Cabul. Their chief stock is perhaps cows and goats; and camels are the chief carriage. Their hills abounding in pine, timber and fuel are easily procurable. Their houses are flat roofed. They raise quantities of good apples, and sell a small quantity of grain to their eastern neighbours, the Wuzee-rees.*

The chief products are wheat and barley, and they raise a little maize.

Kohat.

214. This is an agricultural country, and the two crops are probably equal. The chief products are rice and wheat; some provisions are exported to Peshawur. The lands are commonly irrigated, and that chiefly from springs. The wheat and barley are autumn sown. For fuel they burn olive and shrubs, and timber is procured from Upper Bungush. The houses are flat roofed; cows are the chief stock, and camels the chief carriage. The inhabitants drink chiefly from springs. Kohat may have 5000 inhabitants. The villages are small, and on a given surface the populousness of their districts is less than that of Peshawur. At Kohat they cultivate grapes, figs, and mulberries, and but little other fruit; the perfume they extract from that species of the willow called Bedi mookh, is much esteemed.

* These live in a rugged country, and derive their subsistence from tillage and from flocks of goats.

Malgeen.

215. In this country, which belongs to the Southern Khutuks, the chief subsistence is from tillage; near Malgeen there is more rubbee, and wheat is the chief crop; but near Toree, which lies on the road to Bunnoo, the khureef is greater, and bajra the chief crop. Very few of the fields are irrigated, some bajra is said to be exported to Bunnoo, and a great part of the kingdom is supplied with salt dug in this district; the trade of salt is chiefly in the hands of strangers. The villages are generally small, and there is much waste; for fuel they use shrubs, and they drink from streams, springs, and tanks. In the quarter of Toree are some wells; cows are the chief stock; bullocks and camels perhaps the chief carriage. The natives live in flat roofed houses; those who visit the neighbouring hills in summer, use, I believe, partly black tents, and partly rude sheds of shrubs and grass.

Bunnoo.

216. Bunnoo is an agricultural country, and is well cultivated and peopled. The khureef is the chief crop, and barley, rice, maize, and wheat are said to be the chief products. Some rice and coarse sugar are exported, some wheat and bajra imported. The villages are very numerous, but small. All the lands are watered from branches of the Koorm, but some of the natives drink from wells. Timber is cheap, being brought down on the river, and the houses are flat roofed. For fuel they burn both wood and dung; straw is cheap; provisions are cheaper than at Peshawur. Bullocks are the chief carriage; cows and buffaloes are kept to an equal value. The turmerick of Bunnoo is exported to all quarters. There are no wastes except on the frontiers of this district.

Eesa Khel.

217. This is a narrow district, but is well cultivated by independent farmers. It is best peopled towards the Koorm, where they water the lands from a cut they have drawn from that river. In the northern quarter towards Kalabagh, the lands are lulum, but have the advantage of khwurs. In neither is it easy to find a well. The natives drink from the

Indus and from canals for irrigation. Grain is exported to Kalabagh, and probably other quarters. The two crops are perhaps equal, and wheat the chief product. They live partly in thatched and partly in flat-roofed houses.

Moorwuts.

218. This tribe lives south of Bunnoo, and their country is by some included in Daman, by others not. The product seems to be bajra, and most of the lands are lulum. Their chief stock seems to be cows, which they pasture in the wastes, in the same manner as many other Afghan tribes pasture their sheep; they themselves while thus occupied, live in tents made of black goats' hair, and generally fenced with shrubs. They keep a considerable number of camels; their villages are small.

Daman.

219. This is an agricultural country, notwithstanding its pasturage is so famous, for it is strangers who reap the chief advantage from it. On the whole the two crops are equal; in the southern part in which Drabund is situated, the rubbee is the greater; in the northern, in which lie Tuk and Tukwara, the khureef. The greatest product is bajra, and after it, wheat and barley. Considerable quantities of cotton are raised, and the greater part is exported to the dominions of Moohummud Khan. Bajra and jooaree are in general cultivated lulum, but other things are more commonly irrigated. The Gomul loses itself in the northern part of the Daman (see paragraph 40). There are also a few dams. Many of the natives live by trade. There is little fruit save dates; cattle are the chief stock, and their sheep are both of the heavy tailed and light tailed species. Camels are the chief carriage, and considerable numbers are bred. Some of the mountains, especially that which the Afghans call Kuse Ghur, and others Tukht-i-Sooliman, abound in fir, which afford the neighbourhood timber, fuel, and also torches. The commonest fuel however is from the Guzree, which in certain quarters covers great spaces of uncultivated ground. The natives live in flat roofed houses, excepting those who go and come between the lower and upper country for the sake of

trade. The villages, with some exceptions, are small, and there are wastes of considerable extent. The term Daman is by some applied to a great extent of hills of moderate temperature which lie west of Daman, properly so called, and by that mode of reckoning, the Sheeraness, Oostwanees or Troorianees (as they are more properly called) Doomtanees, and part of the Wuzurees would be considered as inhabitants of the Daman; their country is very waste and ill peopled, but in the winter there is a great resort of the Ghiljies and others, chiefly from Zoormul, for the sake of pasturing their sheep. These strangers think they have a right to a pasturage without stint. Those who proceed onwards to the plain and into Mukulwad are compelled by Moohummud Khan to pay a tax for the grass they consume. In this hilly part of the Daman the rubbee is the chief crop, and cows and goats the chief stock. They drink from springs and streams, in the plains there are also some wells; the inhabitants of the hills make some use of tents.

Mukulwad.

220. Tillage is the chief source of subsistence, and the crops I conceive to be nearly equal. Wheat, barley, chunna, and jooaree are the principal things raised. There is little grain exported or imported; most of the lands are lulum, a part of the rubbee being raised on moist lands, which during the rainy season had been covered by the rain; but the quantity of sunk lands is here much less than in the Kuchhee, which is east of the river in Mooltan, or Buhawulpoor. I have formerly mentioned that such lands form a class by themselves, and are called *seo* (see paragraph 166). There is but little good timber within this district itself, yet they have flat roofed houses covered with wood of the date tree, guz, and sheeshum which grow in the country, and some with wood from other quarters. The guz and shrubs are the chief fuel, and are cheap. Fodder is moderately cheap, though the hard clay of this district be naturally ill clad with grass; the soil is not the most favourable for many species of grain, but the present desolated condition of the district is chiefly owing to the oppressive government. There are considerable spaces of hard clay

without cultivation or much jungle. In the southern part we find a great deal of thick thorny jungle growing on a good soil. The villages are small. The chief carriage is by camels and asses. Cows and sheep are the chief stock, and in some places buffaloes exceed any other stock.

Kuchhee of Moohummud Khan.

221. This tract has a great deal of seo land, and the rubbee is by far the greatest crop. The villages are of moderate size; some tracts of good land are covered with grass jungle, and some of the houses are thatched. Fodder and fuel are plentiful. Great quantities of turnips are raised, and provisions of most kinds are cheap. The chief carriage is by camels, but the petty trade of the country is carried on asses. The people drink from wells.

Thun of Moohummud Khan.

222. In this tract are kept great numbers of sheep; and pasturage is fully as important as tillage. Where water is moderately near, they raise barley and some wheat by means of wells, but they have no chunna. The khureef crop is much the greatest, and is perhaps all lulm, and comprehends scarcely anything but bajra and moth. The villages are very small and at great distances. The ground is chiefly covered with a jungle of grass and thorny shrubs. The houses are thatched. Grass proper for fodder is very scarce; nor is there any timber, but there is abundance of fuel from shrubs. Camels are the only carriage. Some grain is imported from the Kuchhee.

Dera Ghazee Khan.

223. This is an agricultural district; towards the river are some seo lands on which they cultivate rubbee, especially wheat. On the upper grounds they raise the khureef which is the greater crop, and is partly lulm, partly irrigated. Towards hills the lands are all lulm, except where there are some insignificant streams or dams. The irrigation from jhulars is more common than from wells. Jooaree is the chief crop. The villages are small, and there is a good deal of waste, both hill and plain;

in other circumstances this district much resembles the preceding.

Dagul.

224. This is a sandy and desert tract, in which bajra is the chief produce ; the natives drink from tanks and deep wells.

Shikarpoor.

225. Here, as in Dera Ghazee Khan, jooaree is the chief crop. The proportion of irrigated lands is greater, and the jhular is most used, this district being intersected by branches of the Indus, natural or artificial. The khureef is the greater crop ; the villages are of considerable size. The cultivation is considerable, but some supplies of grain are drawn from the west and north. In the town the houses are flat-roofed, but in the villages thatch is more common. The town carries on a considerable trade, chiefly with Candahar, and natives of this place, or whose ancestors have been natives of it, reside in the principal towns of these kingdoms, even as far as Bokhara, acting principally as correspondents to houses in Shikarpoor.

Seeweestan.

226. This is an agricultural country, and exports grain to Shikarpoor, Kilat, and perhaps some other quarters, but its own population is but inconsiderable. The chief place is Gunduwa, which is reckoned to have 12000 houses, including its villages. There is here a stream called Punjwahee, from which they irrigate their fields. Another small stream is divided equally between Dhadur and Sewee. Those places of Seeweestan, which are situated to the north, have often small streams from the hills of the Afghans, to the north of them ; still there is more lalm than irrigated. There is very little irrigation from wells. A common practice is to make a bank to confine the water, which after rain is collected on the low grounds, and as soon as any place becomes moderately dry, they sow their crops on the moist land. The chief crops are jooaree and moth. There is no sugar raised in this country. Their wheat and barley is but little, and for the most part irrigated. Cotton is raised to a considerable extent.

There are large spaces uncultivated, though it is certain that cultivation by wells would succeed in most of them. The villages are small and defenceless. The houses in general are thatched, and as unsubstantial and cheap as in any part of India. In some quarters those who attend the live stock in their pasturage, shelter themselves under mats. In the winter come down Buloochees from the west to pasture their sheep. It is difficult to tell what is the chief stock of this country. The natives live on vegetable food. There is little wood either wild or cultivated, the best supply is from the babool tree. The chief fuel is guz.

Shal and Mustoong.

227. These places are about a day's journey distance, and they are commonly coupled together in conversation. Kirta is about eighteen miles west of Dhadur, and has little cultivation. It is the last place in Seeweestan, and from it they reckon thirty-four coss, or fifty miles, to the town of Shal, the intermediate space being uncultivated, and even but little visited by the shepherds. Part of it is the high and cold plain called Dushti-be-daulat, which is a long day's journey broad, and has no water. The temperature of Shal and Mustoong is little warmer than that of Kilat. The only crop is the rubee, which is irrigated from one or more streams. The people generally live in houses, which are flat-roofed. Timber is to be had for their small consumption, and fuel is cheap. The natives subsist by agriculture. They are but few in number. Shal may have 1000 houses, and Mustoong is larger. All the other villages may be equal to Shal. These places are under Mahommud Khan of Kilat, and are in Bulochistan. This country, generally speaking, is included in the ancient geographical division of Khoorasan, but in the present times Bulochistan and Khoorasan are often contra-distinguished. With Shal and Mustoong begin new manners and practices in domestic economy, for here the people make that hard species of cord, known by the name of Kooroot, and which is not made in Seeweestan by the people of Indian race, who are the most numerous of those who dwell there.